



## MEDIA RELEASE

# BOURKE AND NORTH BOURKE FILTERED WATER SUPPLY TO BE SWITCHED TO BORE WATER AS FIRST FLUSH PASSES

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Bourke Shire Council advises all residents of Bourke and North Bourke that the filtered water supply for Bourke will be switched to Bore Water during the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 in preparation of the receipt of the anticipated large flow in the Darling River expected to arrive in Bourke on or around the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

The first flush is likely to contain water of poor quality with both high levels of turbidity and high salt content and the switch to bore water will enable the water to be treated much easier and also provide a better quality of water until the first flush passes.

Bourke Shire Council Manager of Works, Peter Brown said that whilst the sodium (salt) level in the water is higher than desired the option to switch to bore water is the best course of action.

Recent testing of the bores shows the sodium concentrations range from 289 mg/L to 353 mg/L.

The Australian Drinking Water Guidelines gives a value of 180 mg/L as the concentration at which people are likely to taste sodium in their drinking water. NSW Health confirms that the water is safe to drink, but Council appreciates that people may be concerned about the taste of the water. Chilling your drinking water can help reduce the salty taste.

However, anyone who may be concerned about sodium in the water and their diet should talk to their doctor for specific advice.

NSW Health has previously given information to doctors about patients who may need special attention because of the extra sodium in the drinking water. These are pregnant women, people with advanced kidney disease, poorly controlled high blood pressure, diagnosed heart failure and others who are on a low salt diet.

General Manager of Bourke Shire Council, Ross Earl said that it was fortunate that Council had the ability to switch to a bore supply and this was a result of the proactive work by Council utilising funding provided by the State Government for drought security but also be of benefit when we experience periods of poor water quality which is expected to occur this coming week.

Mr Earl was anticipating the switch to bore water to be for a short period only.

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